

Second Harvest Food Bank Advocacy and Agency Update



A Program of the Community
Action Committee of the
Lehigh Valley



**January
2017**

**We will be closed
on January 2nd and
19th. If you have a
standing delivery or
pickup appointment,
please call us to
reschedule if
needed.**

Inside this issue:

News You can Use	Pg. 1
Cooks Corner	Pg. 2
Advocacy	Pg. 3
News You Can Use	Pg. 4

News You Can Use

2016 is on its way out. We've seen changes like online ordering and new programs like our "fill a glass with hope" milk campaign. Through all of this, you did a great job! We greatly appreciate all the hard work that you and your volunteers do.



Coming in 2017, all agencies that receive State Food in Lehigh and Northampton counties will see a new allocation schedule. The new schedule will help you with timing of when to expect the grant and also when to spend it. More information coming soon!



In 2017, we also anticipate growth in our retail pickup program. The retail pickup program works with our member agencies to access donated product. If you are interested in this program, please give us a call and talk to Briana or Dave.



Advocacy and Agency Update

Page 3

Advocacy - SNAP

In the coming months, it is likely that there will be proposals to change the administration of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Here are two sources of information about SNAP that will be helpful as we evaluate the suggestions for change.

According to the Food Research and Action Center, SNAP participation has decreased over the past year.

"SNAP Over-the-Year Participation Dropped By More Than 1.8 Million People in August 2016

"SNAP participation totaled 43,625,286 persons in August 2016, an increase of 294,562 persons compared with July 2016 but a decrease of 1,839,147 persons compared with August 2015. Much of the over-the-month increase in August 2016 is attributable to temporary Disaster SNAP (D-SNAP) payments to Louisiana flood victims.

"The over-the-year downward SNAP participation trend in July 2016 likely reflects a mix of factors: on the one hand, improved economic conditions have lessened financial need among some households; on the other hand, harsh time limits have pushed certain jobless adults off the rolls. Still, SNAP matters for many Americans across the country as they struggle against problems of underemployment and stagnant wages, particularly in states experiencing sharp job losses in the energy sector."

FRAC provided an extensive review of trends and the impact of SNAP. To read the entire article, go to <http://frac.org/reports-and-resources/snapfood-stamp-monthly-participation-data/>

And, according to a report from the House Committee on Agriculture, "We can all agree that no one ought to go hungry in America, and SNAP is essential in protecting the most vulnerable citizens during tough time. For many it is a vital lifeline to keeping food on the table." Chairman K. Michael Conaway (R-TX 11th District).

The full report can be found at http://agriculture.house.gov/uploadedfiles/snap_report_2016.pdf

Learning about Food Waste

Harvard's Food Law and Policy Clinic has published a study, "Keeping Food Out of the Landfill: Policy Ideas for States and Localities."

The report is available at http://www.chlpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Food-Waste-Toolkit_Oct-2016_smaller.pdf

Portions of the report will be discussed at the Easton Hunger Coalition's new program, "Morning Conversations." The first "Conversation" will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2017, 9:00 am, in the public space adjacent to the demonstration kitchen at the Easton Public Market. Arrive a bit ahead and grab some coffee and breakfast, then join the conversation. Each month a topic will be presented and then explored in an informal roundtable setting, with the potential for suggested actions and advocacy around the issues discussed.

News you can use

- If you receive a delivery, you may have noticed that we are now using trucks with lift-gates. This allows us to be more efficient with the timing of deliveries and donor pick-ups. Going forward, as long as someone is there to receive and oversee the product, we will drop the product and pallets off. As for the pallets themselves, if you don't need them, please set them aside and we will pick them up during your next delivery. If space is an issue, please give us a call (talk to Mike) and we will try to arrange a pickup when we are back your vicinity. As for the storage of pallets, they can be kept indoors or outdoors.
- CSFP - If you haven't already, please mail the original CSFP recertification report to Janet Meyer. 6969 Silver Crest Rd, Nazareth, PA 18064.
- Our annual Hunger Action Workshop, will be held towards the end of March. Dates, locations, and event info, will be arriving soon.
- Starting January 1st, all agencies that were on the zero maintenance fee will see a \$.05 cents a lb. maintenance fee (handling fee) on all donated product. This does not include State or USDA product. Please read the full product description, along with cost, when placing an order.
- If you have a scheduled pickup appointment and cannot make it, please give us a call and let us know. Our pickup schedule is almost booked. Any free appointment slots can be given to another agency.
- During inclement weather, please give us a call to make sure we are open. If we don't answer the phone, we are not in yet. You can also call our CACLV weather line at 484-893-1111 for updates.